



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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House-Senate Leaders Ratify Series of Education Agreements

House and Senate leaders yesterday ratified another round of education agreements that settle some of the most complex issues confronting the reform panel, representing yet another important step toward improving opportunities for disadvantaged children.

Reforms ratified yesterday included agreements that would safeguard constitutionally-protected prayer in public schools and deny funds to state agencies or local school districts that discriminate against the Boy Scouts of America.

Conferees agreed to consolidate and streamline a number of existing programs dealing with technology and Native American education; to allow religious organizations and other community groups to receive funds under the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act; and to help teachers by asking schools to develop policies that allow teachers to maintain control of their classrooms. Conferees also approved a provision to give military recruiters the same access to high school students and their contact information as college recruiters and job recruiters currently have.

The agreements cover many different aspects of education, but share some common elements: they streamline and consolidate current programs, targeting funds to students instead of administration; they emphasize results and greater student achievement, rather than red tape; and they encourage practices based on proven scientific research.

Despite numerous challenges this month and last month, the House-Senate education conference process has continued and is closing in on a strong bipartisan conference report that President Bush can sign into law *this year*.

Message of the Day

Education reform is America's number-one domestic agenda item.

- ❑ *The President's plan targets funding increases to students who need it the most, expands local decision-making flexibility, and streamlines bureaucracy.*
- ❑ *Real accountability is essential if we are going to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.*
- ❑ *Students have waited 35 years for meaningful reform in federal education policy. They should not have to wait any longer.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- House-Senate conferees agreed that federal funds will be denied to any local school district that prevents or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally-protected school prayer.
- Conferees agreed to deny funding to any public school or educational agency that discriminates against or denies equal access to any group affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America.
- Conferees also agreed on a provision to give the nation's Armed Forces Recruiters the same access to high school students as college recruiters and job recruiters have.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"[O]ur number one domestic agenda item . . . is making sure every boy and girl in America gets a good education . . . We hope Congress gets the business done and gets us a good education bill." -- President George W. Bush, October 25, 2001